modernisation of TISCO is the prime concern of the Steel Ministry and the Cabinet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) TISCO being a private company, Planning Commission is not involved in its modernisation programmes, except as a member of the official level Steel Development Fund Management Committee Chaired by Steel Secretary.

Shortage of wagons in CIL

1452. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) is unable to meet its coal movement target to different State Electricity Board in view of the shortage of wagons; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to assist Coal India Limited for improving the movement of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Though Coal India Limited (CIL) has been facing shortages in wagon supply in certain specific coalfields, it has been able to achieve the targeted levels of supply to the power sector during the 1st quarter of 1995-96 (i.e., from April-June, 1995). During this period the despatches of coal to power sector from CIL sources had been 39.88 million tonnes as against the target of 39.12 million tonnes, thus achieving 102% of targeted supply.

(b) The matter has been taken up with the Railways to increase supply of wagons to the required levels.

Imbalance in Growth of Tea Industry

1453. SHRI BHAGWAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing imbalance in the growth of tea industry in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the performance of tea industry in terms of production export has been assessed;

(d) if so, the details in this regard during the last three years; and

(e) the specific steps taken/proposed to be taken for the adequate growth in the production and export of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) While production of tea in the country has registered 1.52% growth rate during the last one decade, there has been a decline in volume of exports of tea in recent years. However, export earnings from tea during this period have registered a growth of 1.86%.

Reasons for decline in exports during these years have been lower imjports by Russia & CIS countries on account of their internal economic problems; lower imports of tea by Iran, Egypt and Saudi Arabia; and competition from other tea producing countries.

Data indicating production and export of tea during the last 3 years is as follows:

Qty. Mn. Kgs.
Val. Rs. crores

Year	Prod.	Export Qty.	Val.
1992	732.32	174.96	995.33
1993*	758.06	175.32	1161.36
1994*	743.78	146.46	900.68

(e) In order to increase production, Tea board has been operating various developmental schemes. The Board has also prepared a perspective plan to increase production of tea which includes short term measures such as optimisation of inputs and improved agricultural practices; medium term measures such as